

Nova Scotia Provincial President- Elect/Chairperson of Organization
Convention report - June 2019 - Amherst, Nova Scotia

Question: Why am I a member of the Catholic Women's League?

I have very often asked this question to members, members who have been in the League many, many years and members who are fairly new to the CWL. The answers vary - to make friends, to learn how to bake, to quilt, and start a resolution. Or maybe it was to defy someone? your husband, your mother, friends and family? However, the most common answer is , "I needed to get out of the house, at least once a month to be with other women". Which, I think is the nicest and simplest answer as for myself it meant just needing a breath of fresh air, to step back, take a break.

Personally, I see members of the Catholic Women's League as very strong women, very courageous and very brave women, and very free and liberated women. Women, who aren't afraid to take a stand, women not afraid to say " I believe in the sanctity of life, sanctity of marriage, in helping others near and far" You believe in love, compassion, you believe in following Jesus, his way, his truth, his life.

Sometimes, we need to change... maybe just a litte, or maybe a lot. I personally see members trying very hard to change, as difficult and scary it seems to let go old ways and embrace a new way.

Does my behavior reflect the League when I am among others?

To be a leader means to listen, to reflect, means to reach out, to believe in others. To be a leader is a choice and a privilege. A good leader learns to serve others, and not to ask to be served, to challenge others to be the best possible person they can be.

The League is in the process of a five year plan, divided into stages, which as we all agree the League needs adjustment. We are taking a good, long hard look at ourselves and the League to see what needs throwing out needs to stay and needs to change.

Please follow the stages during these five years and let us face the future with joy, anticipation and lots of smiles.

During the coming summer months, I would like to propose a challenge for the members of the Nova Scotia CWL - once a day for 10-15 minutes, please read an article in your League magazine, or on the website, a CWL manual, or say a pray from one of our many prayers, everyday, just 10-15 minutes. Or another challenge, everyday write down one joy, and one form of happiness you find in the League.

Respectfully submitted,

Joline Belliveau

Nova Scotia Provincial President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea." Antoine de Saint-Exupéry